

**AIRBAG RELEASE AID**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A solid propellant gas generator contains a bed of agglomerated or beaded hydrated gelatin. The gelatin/water bed is oriented such that at least  
5 substantially filtered combustion products are humidified by the water vapor as the filtered combustion products pass over the bed. Relative thereto, a method of improving the release and inflation of an airbag of a vehicle occupant protection system is also described. Humidification of at least substantially filtered combustion products results in a reduced pressure requirement to open  
10 and inflate a stored airbag in fluid communication with the gas generator.